

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of sharing information in a computer network in which the information is used to fill in online forms, the method comprising:
    - accessing a first primary data profile containing a non-filtered set of data corresponding to a first user;
    - creating one or more secondary data profiles, wherein a secondary data profile contains a filtered set of data, wherein the filtered set of data is taken from the first primary data file; and
    - coalescing data from a secondary data profile and data from a second primary data profile to construct a third data set wherein the third data set is used to complete an online form such that certain data items required by the form relating to the first user are taken from the secondary data profile portion of the third data set.
  2. A method of sharing information as recited in claim 1 wherein creating one or more secondary data profiles further comprises selecting particular data items from the non-filtered set of data that the first user intends to share with one or more computer network users.
  3. A method of sharing information as recited in claim 1 wherein creating one or more secondary data profiles further comprises creating a secondary data profile for a specific computer network user.
  4. A method as recited in claim 3 wherein the specific computer network user is a gift giver and the first user is a gift receiver.
  5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein a secondary data profile inherits privacy preferences from data items in the first primary data profile.
  6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein privacy preferences attached to the secondary data profile determine how the secondary data profile will be used.

7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein coalescing data from a secondary data profile and data from a second primary data profile further comprises taking data from the secondary data profile relating to shipping and specific characteristics of the first user and taking data from the second primary data profile relating to billing.

8. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising automatically filling  
in an online form with data from the third data set once the first user has been  
10 selected by a second user.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising requesting access to use the secondary data profile in response to a notification to a fill in an online form.

10. A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising granting access to the secondary data profile thereby enabling a computer network user to fill in the online form.

20 11. A method of allowing an information requester to access data from an  
information provider in order to complete an online merchant form, the  
method comprising:

25       creating a filtered data set containing data the information provider is  
       willling to share with particular third-party users, including the information  
       requester;

retrieving an online merchant form upon request by an information requester, the online merchant form having a plurality of fields;

inserting data from the information requester into a first subset of the plurality of fields; and

30 granting access to the filtered data set by the information provider to  
the information requester so that data from the filtered data set is inserted into  
a second subset of the plurality of fields, wherein the online merchant form is  
from an online merchant not affiliated with any other online merchant.

35 12. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein the online merchant is not  
associated with a network or group of other online merchants.

